

REMARKS

Initially, Applicants note that an Information Disclosure Statement was filed on October 31, 2006, before the mailing date of the present office action. Applicants request that the submitted references be considered and that the initialed Form 1449 be returned.

In the office action dated November 16, 2006, claims 1 and 3-13 were rejected. Applicants are amending claims 1 and 3, which are the independent claims, and correcting a misspelled word in the specification. As such, claims 1 and 3-13 are pending. Favorable consideration of the amended claims is requested in view of the following remarks.

Independent claim 1 is being amended to recite that the semantic card comprises rules embodying goals, automation and other policies regarding at least one of: how the semantic object (i) interacts with, (ii) is manipulated by, and (iii) is displayed to human beings and automatic processes. Similarly, independent claim 3 is being amended to recite that the semantic card comprises rules regarding at least one of: how the semantic card (i) interacts with, (ii) is manipulated by, and (iii) is displayed to human beings and automated processes. These amendments are supported by the present disclosure, for example in the description of rules on pages 20-22 of the specification. There, it is mentioned that “[t]hese rules can specify, for example, how the semcard should be displayed depending on the display device used, which render is being used, and what purpose the semcard is being viewed for. The rules can specify how, for example, meta-data (or data values) in the semcard should be organized and what labels should be used for them, if any, as well as what aspects of the semcard appear as interactive elements in the interface, and the results of specific interaction with those elements.”

Specification 21:10-16. It is also described that “[a] rule could for example specify that ‘when recipient gets the message, send me a receipt and also forward receipt to a database; wait for a reply from recipient; if no reply is received, remind recipient to send a reply in 3 days.’”

Specification 23:13-16. No new matter is added.

The portion of the specification that was added by amendment in a previous response is being amended to correct a misspelled word. Particularly, one phrase is being amended to correctly read “Or, for example, …”. No new matter is added.

Claims 1 and 3-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. 6,847,974 (“Wachtel”) in view of U.S. 6,839,701 (“Baer”). This rejection is traversed.

Claim 1 is directed to a semantic object representing an entity or tacit information. The object comprises semantic tags and rules. As the claim is amended, the rules embody “goals, automation and other policies regarding at least one of: how the semantic object (i) interacts with, (ii) is manipulated by, and (iii) is displayed to human beings and automatic processes.” Applicants note that the part regarding “how the semantic object (i) interacts with, (ii) is manipulated by, and (iii) is displayed to human beings and automatic processes” relates to the rules according to claim 1. In some implementations, copies of the semantic objects are distributed to other users (page 19, line 17—page 20, line 4), for example by transmitting them over a computer network (page 21, lines 17-20). Thus, it is an advantage to have the rules included in the semantic object so that they are available at the receiving end. Applicants submit that Wachtel and Baer, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest a semantic object that includes rules as recited in independent claim 1.

Independent claim 3 is directed to a method of documenting information. The method includes creating a semantic card that is configured to represent resource information or tacit information. The semantic card includes tags for identifying semantic information, and rules regarding at least one of: how the semantic card (i) interacts with, (ii) is manipulated by, and (iii) is displayed to human beings and automated processes. The method includes seeking to detect an information resource containing information that can be represented by the semantic card. If the information resource is found, the method includes linking the semantic card to the information resource such that the semantic card represents the information resource. The semantic card is also configured to have a link to or from any number of other semantic cards. Applicants note that the part regarding how the semantic object interacts with, is manipulated by, and is displayed to human beings and automatic processes is embodied in the rules according to the claim. Applicants submit that Wachtel and Baer, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest a method that involves creating a semantic object including rules as recited in independent claim 1.

Wachtel discloses a method and apparatus for “intelligent data assimilation”. Wachtel Title. The intelligent data assimilation comprises providing a data result to a client in response to a service request message. Wachtel column 4, lines 48-61 (hereafter “Wachtel 4:48-61”). Particularly, Wachtel describes that the service request message containing search parameters is transmitted from a data client host to the intelligent data assimilation system. *Id.* This system, in turn, transmits a query to a data provider server which then responds to the query with a data set. *Id.* The intelligent data assimilation system populates the ontological instance of the returned data and transmits a formatted data result to the data client. *Id.* There is no reference made in Wachtel of a semantic object that includes rules as required by independent claims 1 and 3.

For the claim language “rules embodying goals,” the Office Action cited to Wachtel 6:62. Applicants respectfully disagree. Wachtel 6:62 discusses that a product configurator provides the ability to choose and place semantic objects into a workflow, and also to configure other attributes about a data product including input rules, among other things. However, there is no disclosure or suggestion in Wachtel that a semantic object should include rules as required by the present claims. On the contrary, Wachtel’s Figure 4 shows examples of the semantic objects that the disclosed system can work with. There, a “person name” semantic object 150 is made up by grouping a first name 147, a middle initial 151 and a last name 149. Wachtel 9:59-65. Accordingly, such a semantic object is significantly different from that required by the present claims, which includes rules as specified in claims 1 or 3.

For the claim language “automation and other policies regarding how the semantic object interacts with,” the Office Action cited to Wachtel’s Figure 9 and Wachtel 13:47-51. Applicants respectfully disagree. First, this claim phrase relates to the rules mentioned earlier in the claim, such that it is the rules that must embody “automation and other policies regarding … ” etc. Second, the cited passages of Wachtel do not teach or suggest rules that embody such features. Rather, Wachtel 13:47-51 states that Figure 9 depicts interactions within a workflow with optional processes. Particularly, the workflow begins with the receipt of a search service request message and this leads to a workflow instance being invoked. Wachtel 13:52-63. The workflow instance, in turn, calls a logical search object (LSO) which transmits a data request message to a

data provider and receives a requested data message in return. Wachtel 14:42-49. There is no mention or suggestion in Wachtel of rules regarding interaction being included in the object.

For the claim language “is manipulated by, … human beings” the Office Action cited to Wachtel 5:26. Applicants respectfully disagree. First, this claim phrase relates to the rules mentioned earlier in the claim. Second, the cited passage of Wachtel does not teach or suggest rules that embody such features. That is, Wachtel 5:26 relates to creating and manipulating a repository of logical search objects. There is no mention or suggestion in Wachtel of including rules in the object relating to how the semantic object is manipulated by human beings.

For the claim language “and is displayed to human beings” the Office Action cited to the Abstract of Wachtel. Applicants respectfully disagree. First, this claim phrase relates to the rules mentioned earlier in the claim. Second, the cited passage of Wachtel does not teach or suggest rules that embody such features. The Wachtel Abstract describes that graphical user interfaces provide facilities for creating logical search objects and aggregating logical search objects into workflows and services. There is no mention or suggestion in Wachtel of including rules in the object relating to how the semantic object is displayed to human beings.

For the claim language “automatic processes,” the Office Action cited to Wachtel 9:21. Applicants respectfully disagree. First, this claim phrase relates to the rules mentioned earlier in the claim. Second, the cited passage of Wachtel does not teach or suggest rules that embody such features. Wachtel 9:21 states that an intelligent data assimilation system can use a “weblogic process integrator” to implement workflow tasks, and that this integrator provides the ability to design and automate business processes. But there is no disclosure or suggestion in Wachtel that an object should include rules as specified in claims 1 or 3.

The office action then cited to Wachtel’s Figures 7a and 7b, and Wachtel 11:27-35, for the feature that the semantic object can be searched using semantic data tags and metadata contained in the semantic object. However, Wachtel does not disclose a semantic object as required by the independent claim 1, for reasons similar to those discussed above.

For the claim portion stating “the meta-data being paired … and shared over a network,” the office action acknowledged that these features are not shown in Wachtel, but instead stated

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that they are shown by Baer's Figures 22A and 22B, and cites to Baer 5:65—6:2. Applicants respectfully disagree.

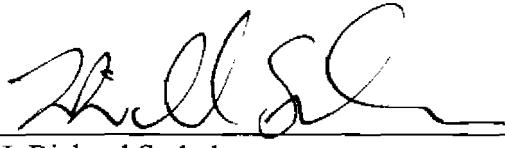
Baer relates to a bitmask for querying hierarchically related content entities. Baer Title. Queries are executed on hierarchical containers and “noncontainers” and the results are merged using hit masks. Baer Abstract. Baer discusses a library server, object servers and library clients on a network. Baer 5:27-45. But there is no suggestion that a semantic object should include rules as required by the present claims. Particularly, Baer 5:65—6:2 describes that it must be specified which other patrons have access to the object, but there is no suggestion that a semantic object should include rules as specified by the present claims. Baer's Figures 22A and 22B, moreover, show the system administrator interface of a content management system. Baer, Brief Description of Drawings. Particularly, Baer's Figure 22A shows three options available to the user as hypertext links. Baer 85:31-38. Baer's Figure 22B, in turn, shows a list of attributes displayed by an approval function that is invoked by clicking on a link in the system administrator interface. Baer 85:48-54. But there is no disclosure or suggestion in Baer of the semantic objects, and the included rules, as required by the present claims.

Applicants submit that Wachtel combined with Baer does not disclose or suggest the subject matter of the present claims. The present claims are therefore patentable over Wachtel and Baer, alone or taken in combination. Applicants request favorable consideration of the amended claims 1 and 3-13.

This amendment is filed within the shortened statutory period and no fee is therefore due. Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06 1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 2/16/07

  
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J. Richard Soderberg  
Reg. No. 43,352

Fish & Richardson P.C.  
60 South Sixth Street  
Suite 3300  
Minneapolis, MN 55402

Applicant : Nova Spivack et al.  
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Telephone: (612) 335-5070  
Facsimile: (612) 288-9696  
60399001.doc